

those cuts and close down National Wildlife Refuges.

If you ask the American people, do they love their American parks and do they want rangers to be there to service them? The American people are going to say, yes, of course, they do. Well, these gentlemen want to cut them. That is what is going on here. They want to cut the parks and cut park personnel. There is a huge backlog in the parks. They don't want to do anything about it. They want to cut further.

The other part of this bill which is very, very important, is we are always hearing about local communities needing water and sewer. Your side always talks about mandates. Well, this bill is about giving local communities water and sewer grants through the EPA so that they can clean up so that cities don't have to be polluters.

So, we ought to get a little question in reality here when it comes to the fringe element that is coming out here, not the bipartisan subcommittee that put this together.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the time available on each side?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Georgia has 4 minutes remaining and the gentleman from Massachusetts has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, given the discrepancy in the times, to equalize the time, I will reserve my time.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to reiterate a couple of points, because we seem to be having this debate every week. It seems to be on the same issues we have always been talking about. But I find it not necessarily enjoyable, but an obligation, to get up and communicate to the American taxpayer and the citizens of this country that over the last 6 years, the Republican House, Republican Senate, Republican White House, borrowed \$3 trillion. They asked the Treasury Department to raise the debt limit five or six times to allow them to go out and borrow more money.

You borrowed it from China. You borrowed it from Japan. You borrowed it from OPEC countries. On and on and on and on. All of a sudden, 5 or 6 months into this year, before we have even passed a budget, you are lecturing us on fiscal responsibility.

I want the taxpayers, Mr. Chairman, to keep their forms from this year and compare them to their tax forms next year. They will see absolutely no increase in their taxes whatsoever. None. Zero. So, there is not a tax increase in this 2008 budget.

Now, let's talk about what you are proposing to cut with this amendment.

Superfund sites. Okay, you want to cut the Superfund site program that is

going to clean up the most toxic sites. In many of the old industrial areas like mine, the gentleman knows very well, they were polluted in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. We can't develop the local economy because where we have water lines and where we have sewer lines, they are contaminated.

Quite frankly, the city of Youngstown and the city of Warren do not have millions of dollars to put into this because their tax base has eroded. If you want us to contribute to the tax base like we did in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s when, quite frankly, a lot of that money that was taken out of Youngstown, Ohio, was used to develop the West and to develop new water lines and sewer lines in the South in many of your districts, all we are asking is for a little bit of help.

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Help us clean up the brownfield sites.

How about your cutting the methamphetamine prevention and treatment program? I am sure you can't wait to get back to your districts and tell that to your constituents. How about those of you in the West fighting wildfires? You are going to cut that program.

Mr. Chairman, many will say there are not any cuts in this bill. There are cuts in this bill: \$193 million cut from construction account, it eliminates \$31 million for landowner incentives; \$39 million cut for the EPA Mexican border program; \$24 million cut from the EPA Alaska Village setaside; \$24 million cut from the Indiana land consolidation. There are cuts in here. We are not raising taxes. We are making investments into our community.

Just because, Mr. Chairman, the minority party raised the debt \$3 trillion, just because the minority party is ashamed, quite frankly, of their behavior over the past 6 years doesn't mean that they can displace all of their shamefulness on the new Democratic majority. I wouldn't want to admit that I borrowed \$3 trillion from Japan and China either. I would run from it as fast as I could. But that doesn't change the facts.

So I think we should vote down this amendment. There are great investments for local communities all over the country in this bill, and I think we should keep it.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), a champion for fiscal responsibility and fiscal reform in Washington.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I think this is a real test here. We all campaign every 2 years, and we put out campaign literature. We go speak at town halls and other events. And I would venture to guess that not one person in this body said, Reelect me because we need to spend more on Interior appropriations. We need to spend more. We need to

spend 4 percent more than we did last year. I am going to go back to Washington and spend \$1.2 billion more than we did last year.

I venture that nobody said that. Virtually everybody said we need to rein in spending. We need to promote fiscal responsibility.

I am the first to concede we didn't do a good job of it over here. For the past several years we have grown government far too big. That is part of the reason we are now in the minority. But the majority comes now and says, don't lecture us, we are going to increase that spending.

This bill spends \$1.2 billion more than last year. Last year spent too much. This year spends too much too much again.

So, please, we know we did wrong. That is why we are in the minority. But when you are in the majority now, let's exercise some fiscal discipline. There are plenty of areas that can receive cuts. We have outlined several of them over the past several hours with amendments.

Museum funding, part of the reason the gentleman from New Mexico mentioned that we have a backlog at the National Parks, he is right. But yet in the authorizing committee, we have created several more National Heritage Areas and earmarked a lot more money for them. There are earmarks in this bill for National Heritage Areas. That is money that will come out of the National Parks budget. They will tell you if you spend money here on this new area, this National Heritage Area, you can't spend money maintaining the parks that we already have. Many of us have fought to stop that. We have said don't keep creating these National Heritage Areas. Yet with the new majority, we are creating them at a faster rate than we ever have.

I would say, let's promote fiscal discipline. Let's pass this amendment.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to speak to the gentleman who has just spoken. I commend the gentleman who has just spoken. I think he has taken a very responsible, very serious approach to budgeting over the last several sessions, and I appreciate that sort of thing very much.

But I would say that here we are in this instance with an amendment that takes an approach not quite across-the-board, but gives the total responsibility off to the President of the United States to decide where to make any cuts he wishes to make, which, I repeat, is an abrogation of our responsibility under the Constitution that we take an oath to.

I would say that also this is a bad approach because after 40 amendments, each of which has been defeated, and 40 amendments which have had so little merit to them that they have been defeated, many of them by roll call votes, by roll call votes, and the sum total of all those amendments was considerably more than the \$276 million, to now throw up your hands and try to do it in